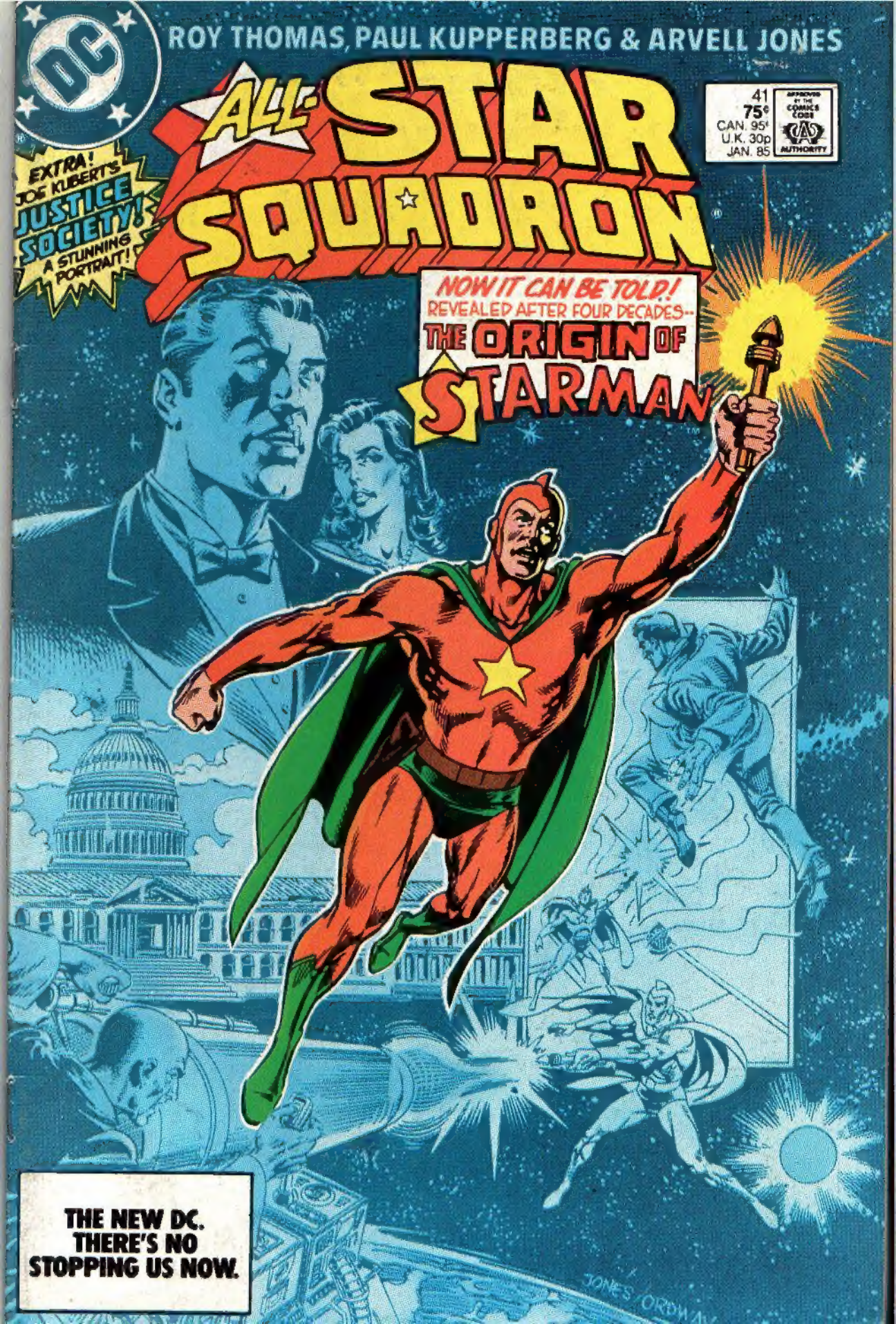
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THE ORIGIN OF STARMAN
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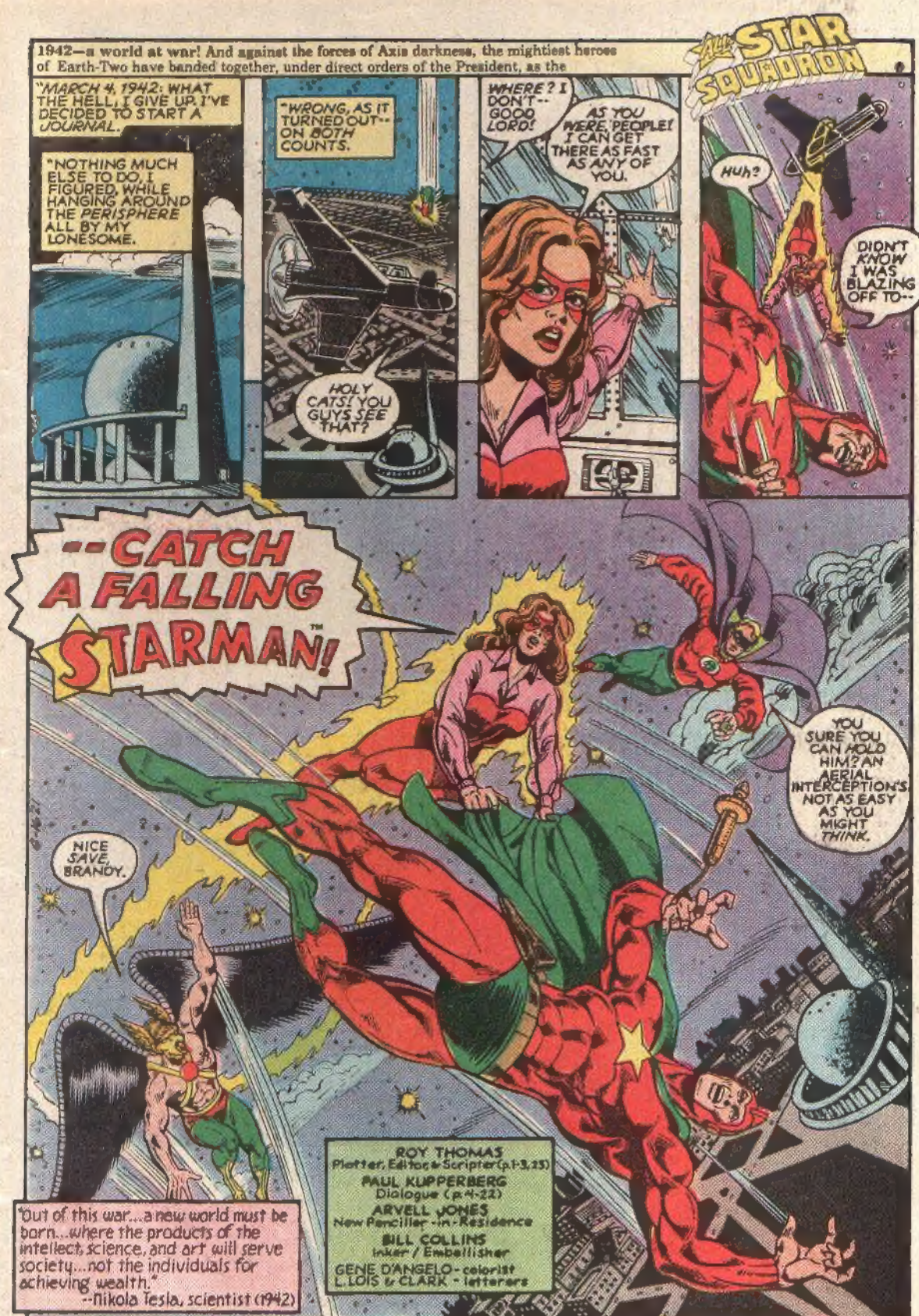

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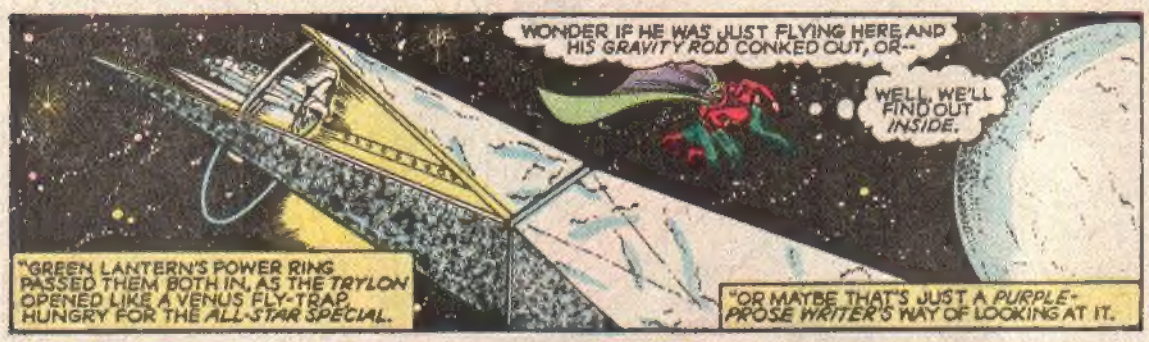
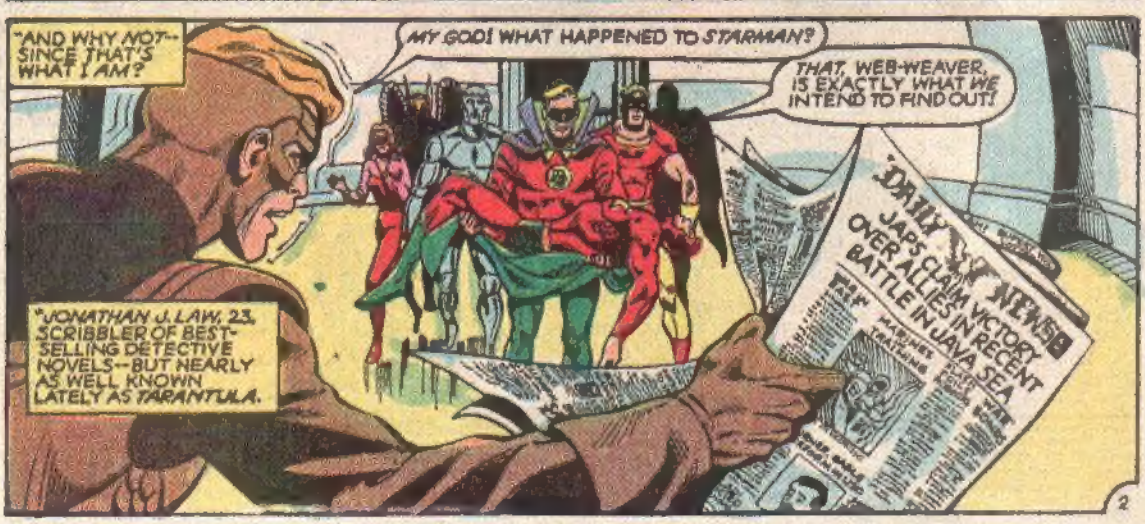
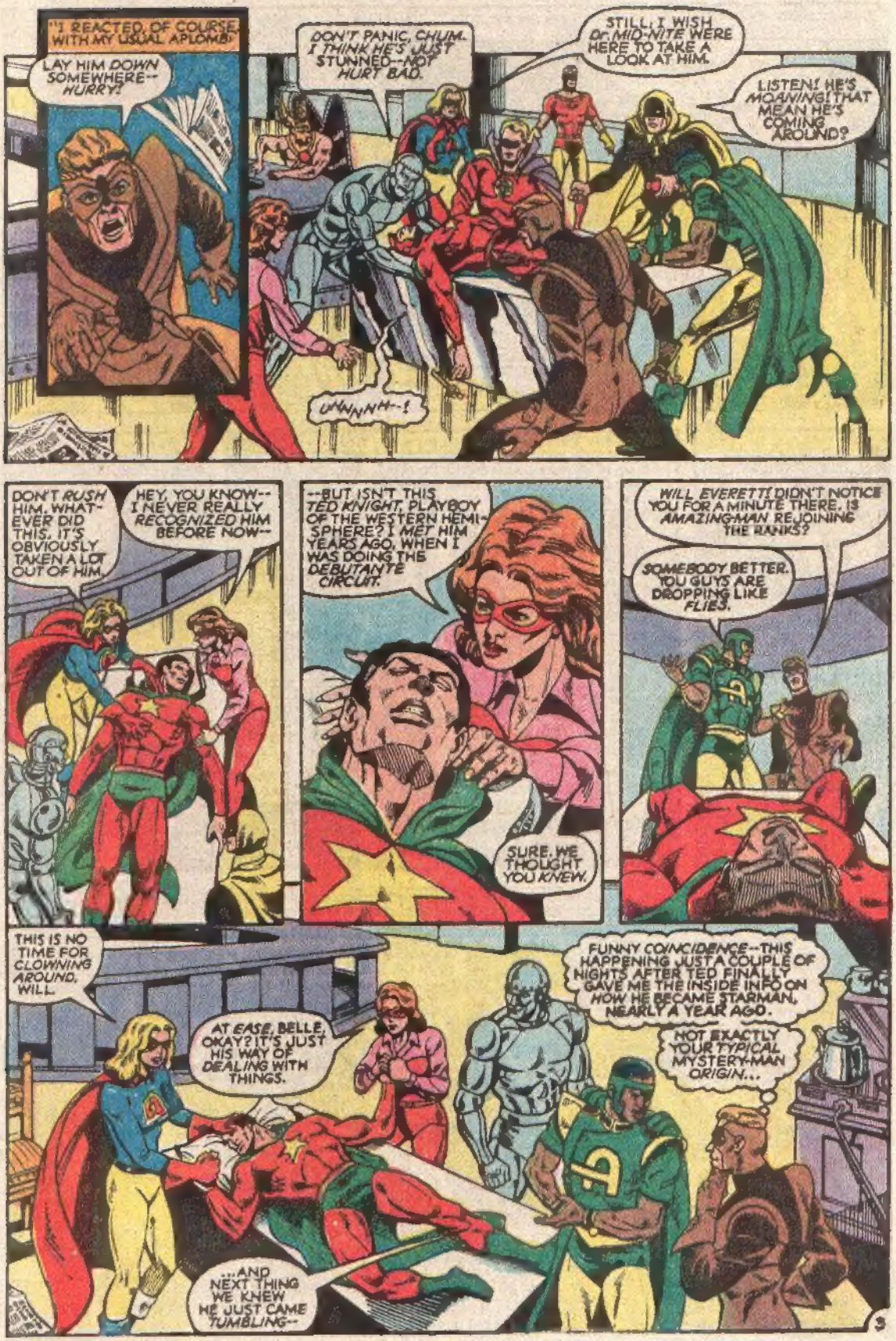
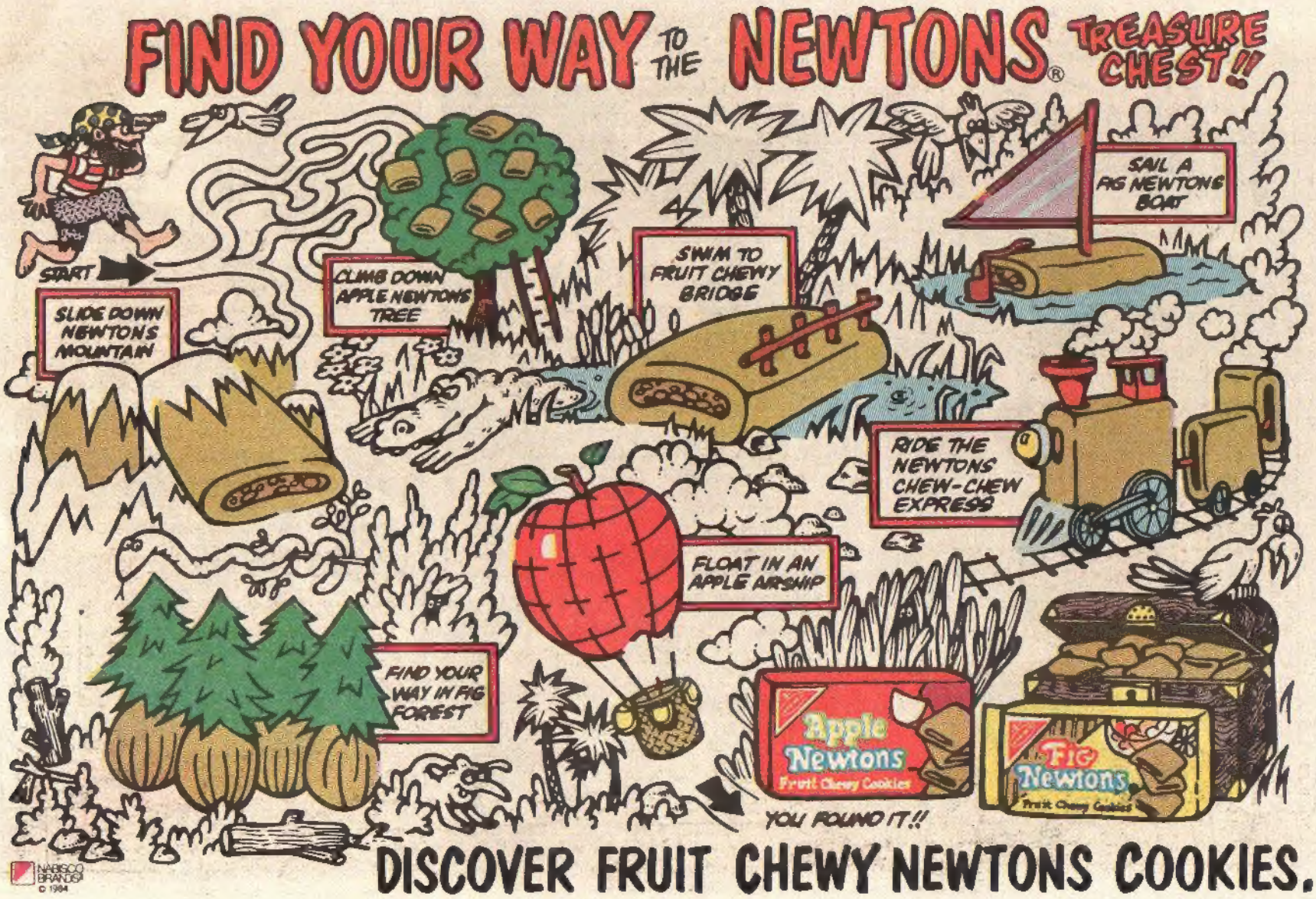
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ALAN? SURE I CAN--
--AND THEN AGAIN--!
I'VE GOT YOU, DANETTE. LET HIM GO.
I--I CAN'T, HAWKMAN! HE'LL FALL!
I SAID-- LET HIM GO!
OKAY, OKAY!
SEE, FIREBRAND? THAT'S WHAT TEAMMATES ARE FOR, REMEMBER?
HE'S OUT COLD--LIMP AS A DISHRAG.


WONDER IF HE WAS JUST FLYING HERE AND HIS GRAVITY ROD CONKED OUT, OR--
WELL, WE'LL FIND OUT INSIDE.
"GREEN LANTERN'S POWER RING PASSED THEM BOTH IN, AS THE TRYLON OPENED LIKE A VENUS FLY-TRAP HUNGRY FOR THE ALL-STAR SPECIAL.
"OR MAYBE THAT'S JUST A PURPLE-PROSE WRITER'S WAY OF LOOKING AT IT.


"AND WHY NOT-- SINCE THAT'S WHAT I AM?
MY GOD! WHAT HAPPENED TO STARMAN?
THAT, WEB-WEAVER, IS EXACTLY WHAT WE INTEND TO FIND OUT!
DAILY NEWS
JAPS CLAIM VICTORY OVER ALLIES IN RECENT BATTLE IN JAVA SEA
"JONATHAN J. LAW, 23, SCRIBBLER OF BEST-SELLING DETECTIVE NOVELS--BUT NEARLY AS WELL KNOWN LATELY AS TARANTULA.


"I REACTED, OF COURSE, WITH MY USUAL APLOMB."
LAY HIM DOWN SOMEWHERE--HURRY!
DON'T PANIC, CHUM. I THINK HE'S JUST STUNNED--NOT HURT BAD.
STILL, I WISH Dr. MID-NITE WERE HERE TO TAKE A LOOK AT HIM.
LISTEN! HE'S MOANING! THAT MEAN HE'S COMING AROUND?
UHNNNH--!
DON'T RUSH HIM. WHATEVER DID THIS, IT'S OBVIOUSLY TAKEN A LOT OUT OF HIM.
HEY, YOU KNOW--I NEVER REALLY RECOGNIZED HIM BEFORE NOW--
--BUT ISN'T THIS TED KNIGHT, PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE? I MET HIM YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS DOING THE DEBUTANTE CIRCUIT.
SURE. WE THOUGHT YOU KNEW.
WILL EVERETT! DIDN'T NOTICE YOU FOR A MINUTE THERE. IS AMAZING-MAN REJOINING THE RANKS?
SOMEBODY BETTER. YOU GUYS ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES.
THIS IS NO TIME FOR CLOWNING AROUND, WILL.
AT EASE, BELLE, OKAY? IT'S JUST HIS WAY OF DEALING WITH THINGS.
...AND NEXT THING WE KNEW HE JUST CAME TUMBLING--
FUNNY COINCIDENCE--THIS HAPPENING JUST A COUPLE OF NIGHTS AFTER TED FINALLY GAVE ME THE INSIDE INFO ON HOW HE BECAME STARMAN, NEARLY A YEAR AGO.
NOT EXACTLY YOUR TYPICAL MYSTERY-MAN ORIGIN...

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.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SLIDE DOWN NEWTONS MOUNTAIN
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SWIM TO FRUIT CHEWY BRIDGE
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Apple Newtons
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Fig Newtons
Fruit Chewy Cookies
YOU FOUND IT!!
DISCOVER FRUIT CHEWY NEWTONS COOKIES.
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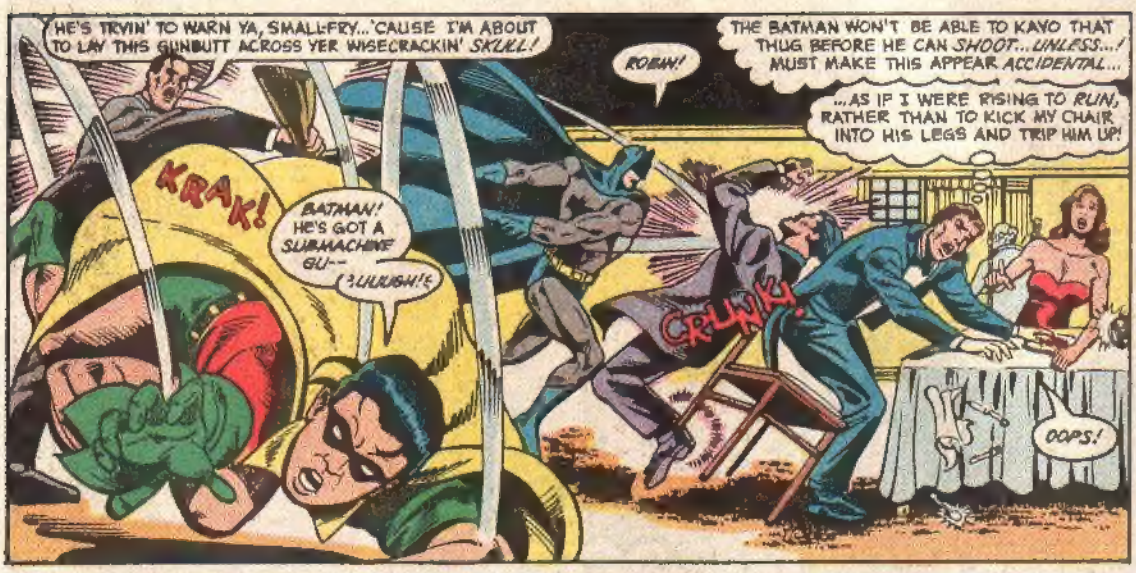
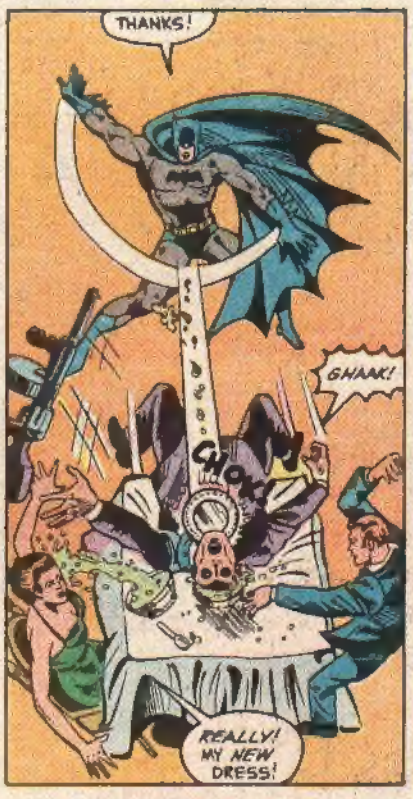
KNIGHT BARELY TASTED THE EXCLUSIVE CLUB'S GOURMET FARE, NOR HEARD ITS BAND'S GAY MUSIC THAT NIGHT. HE COULDN'T QUITE PUT HIS FINGER ON THE REASON WHY HE WAS SO DISTRACTED. HIS COMPANION COULD...
FACE IT, TED, WE'RE IN A RUT! EVERY NIGHT IT'S THE SAME THING, HOPPING FROM ONE CLUB TO ANOTHER.
WHY, WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD--WITH EUROPE FALLING TO HITLER AND HIS NAZIS, ALL YOU SEEM TO CARE ABOUT IS PLAYING THE STOCK MARKET!
--OH YES, AND FIDDLING WITH THAT-- THAT TELE-SCOPE THING OF YOURS. DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU GOT INVOLVED IN SOMETHING, TED?
THAT TELESCOPE "THING" HAPPENS TO BE A TOTALLY NEW AND ADVANCED INSTRUMENT THAT I DESIGNED, MISS LEE.
I'M NOT TOTALLY WITH-OUT ABILITY, YOU KNOW.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME SO MAD! YOU'VE GOT MORE ABILITY THAN MOST MEN I KNOW--IF ONLY YOU HAD THE GUMPTION TO PUT IT TO GOOD USE!
Psssst, BRUCE! IF WE LEAVE NOW, WE CAN STILL CATCH THE LAST COUPLE OF INNINGS AT GOTHAM STADIUM!
SURELY YOU DON'T WTEND GETTING UPSET OVER THIS.
NOT TONIGHT, DICK.
"BUT WHILE KNIGHT AND DORIS ARGUED...
GET READY, YOU MUGS! THIS JOINT'S AS PACKED WITH SHELLS AS IT'S GONNA GET!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FOR OUR NEXT NUMBER, WE'RE GOIN' TO DO A REQUEST--
--A REQUEST THAT ALL OF YOU STICK 'EM UP AND HAND OVER YOUR GOODIES!
EEEEEK! THE MUSICIANS! THEY'VE GOT GUNS!
5

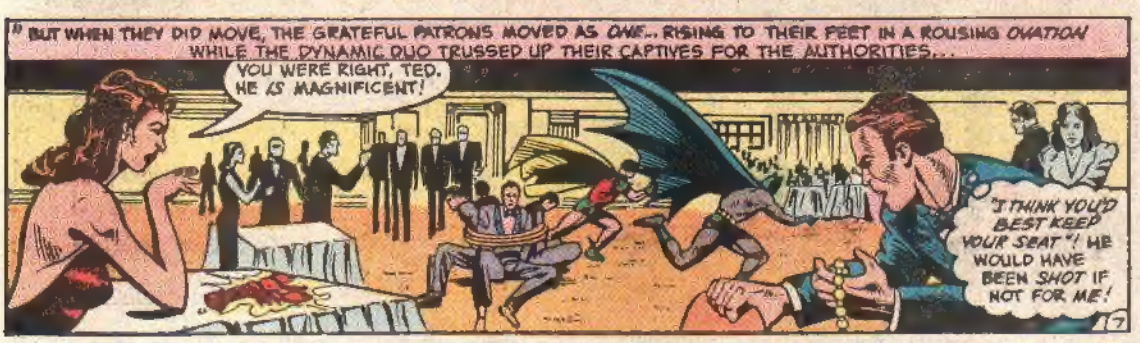
YA GOT THAT ONLY HALF RIGHT, LADY! WE AIN'T MUSICIANS... BUT WE DO GOT THESE RODS... AND WE'LL USE 'EM IF... EH?!?
OOCHON! SUCH A THING SHALL NOT HAPPEN IN MY ESTABLISHMENT!
GUESS AGAIN, FRENCHY! IT'S HAPPENIN'!
KRAK!
UGHH!
WHY, YOU SNIVELING COWARDLY THUG!
RELAX, PRETTY BOY... UNLESS YOU'RE LOOKIN' TO FIND OUT IF THIS GAT'S REALLY LOADED!
I DIDN'T THINK SO. HEY, VER LADY FRIEND'S GOT SOME SET'A... BAUBLES HERE! MIND IF I CHECK 'EM OUT, PRETTY BOY?
I SWEAR I'LL--
NO, TED! HE'LL KILL YOU!
YOU BET I WILL, SWEETHEART! AND THEM ROCKS AIN'T WORTH TAKIN' A SLUG FO--HUH?!?
B-BOSS! IT'S...IT'S...
TH-THAT... SHADOW...?!
STOP STUTTERING, HOOD! MY NAME'S EASY ENOUGH TO PRONOUNCE JUST SAY IT WITH ME NOW--
--THE BATMAN!
AND LET'S NOT FORGET THE EVER-POPULAR ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!
PLUG 'EM BOTH!
BLAM!
THWAK!
HEY! YOU DON'T WANT TO LISTEN TO HIM... ESPECIALLY SEEING AS HOW YOU'RE ALREADY UP TO YOUR NECK IN TROUBLE!
GREAT SCOTT! THAT BRUTE'S GOING FOR THE BOY!
ROBIN! BEHIND YOU, LAD!
CHONK!
HUH?
R
6


HE'S TRYIN' TO WARN YA, SMALL-FRY... 'CAUSE I'M ABOUT TO LAY THIS GUNBUTT ACROSS YER WISECRACKIN' SKULL!
KRAK!
BATMAN! HE'S GOT A SUBMACHINE GU--
?ULRUSH!?
ROBIN!
THE BATMAN WON'T BE ABLE TO KAYO THAT THUG BEFORE HE CAN SHOOT... UNLESS...! MUST MAKE THIS APPEAR ACCIDENTAL...
...AS IF I WERE RISING TO RUN, RATHER THAN TO KICK MY CHAIR INTO HIS LEGS AND TRIP HIM UP!
CRUNK!
OOPS!

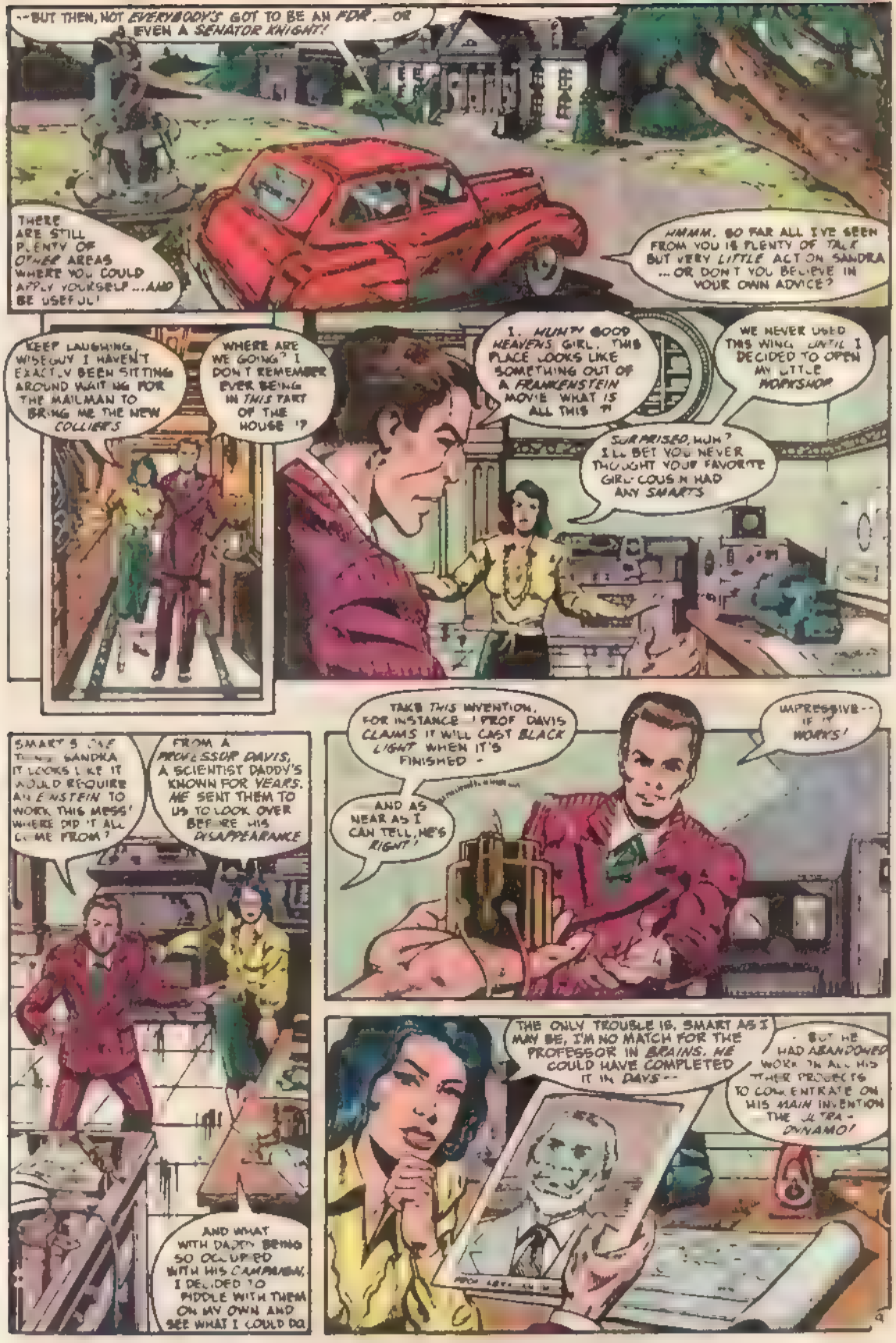
DON'T THINK I DON'T APPRECIATE THE RESULTS, SIR. BUT FOR THE DURATION, I THINK YOU'D BEST KEEP YOUR SEAT.
ER... MAY I BORROW THIS A MOMENT?
C-CERTAINLY!


THANKS!
GHAAK!
CHOK
REALLY! MY NEW DRESS!

"THE RESTAURANT WAS STUNNED INTO SILENCE FOR LONG MOMENTS BY THE BATMAN'S INCREDIBLE DISPLAY. THE MYSTERIOUS CAPED CRUSADER, HOWEVER, HAD ALREADY TURNED TO OTHER MATTERS...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SON? ANYTHING BROKEN?
ONLY MY... ?oooff!?... CONCENTRATION! ?OUCH!?


"BUT WHEN THEY DID MOVE, THE GRATEFUL PATRONS MOVED AS ONE... RISING TO THEIR FEET IN A ROUSING OVATION WHILE THE DYNAMIC DUO TRUSSED UP THEIR CAPTIVES FOR THE AUTHORITIES...
YOU WERE RIGHT, TED. HE IS MAGNIFICENT!
"I THINK YOU'D BEST KEEP YOUR SEAT"! HE WOULD HAVE BEEN SHOT IF NOT FOR ME!

*LATER, AT EVENING'S END
ONE THING IS FOR CERTAIN, TED-- THE BATMAN'S NOT LIKE THOSE CREAMPUFF PLAYBOYS IN THE CLUB!
SHE'S TALKING ABOUT ME, BLAST IT! EVEN THOUGH I SAVED THE BATMAN'S SKIN--
--NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE ME IF I SAID IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT!
YOU SEEM QUITE TAKEN WITH THE HEROIC TYPE ALL OF A SUDDEN, DORIS. PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO CONTINUE THIS OVER A NIGHTCAP...?
NOT TONIGHT TED
I SUPPOSE I'M JUST FEELING JITTERY AFTER ALL THE EXCITEMENT...I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE I JUST NEED SOME TIME ALONE TO THINK! GOOD NIGHT, TED!
BUT... BUT...
OF ALL THE...! BUT SHE'S NOT ENTIRELY WRONG, EITHER! COMPARED TO THE BATMAN I AM A MILKSOP!
BUT I DON'T HAVE TO STAY ONE, BY GOD!
I THINK I'LL WALK, WINSTON I'VE GOT SOME THINKING OF MY OWN TO DO...!
*TED KNIGHT THOUGHT PLENTY THAT NIGHT, AND OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS BY THE TIME HE WAS DONE THINKING, HE FOUND HIMSELF...
*...IN WASHINGTON, D.C.:
THIS IS SOME TOWN YOU HAVE HERE, SANDRA AWFULLY CONGESTED THOUGH, ISN'T IT?
EATS
YOU CAN DROP THE BORED NASAL TONES OF THE IDLE ARISTOCRAT WITH ME, COUSIN TED--
--OR YOU CAN JUST HOP OUT OF THIS CAR INTO THE CONGESTION AND FIND YOURSELF A CAB!
HA HA! SORRY, SANDRA. I'VE BEEN LIVING THAT LIFE SO LONG I SOMETIMES FORGET THAT NOT EVERYBODY WITH MONEY IS A FULL-TIME LOUNGE LIZARD!
SO YOU SAID OVER THE TELEPHONE YESTERDAY IF YOU'RE BORED, WHY NOT DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?
LORD KNOWS THERE'S PLENTY FOR EVERYONE THESE DAYS. EVEN MY FATHER, RUNNING FOR HIS SECOND TERM IN THE SENATE--
--AND STILL WONDERING IF WHAT HE'S DOING IS ENOUGH!
WELL, NOW DEAR SANDRA... I'M NOT EXACTLY POLITICAL MATERIAL--
8


--BUT THEN, NOT EVERYBODY'S GOT TO BE AN FDR... OR EVEN A SENATOR KNIGHT!
THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF OTHER AREAS WHERE YOU COULD APPLY YOURSELF ...AND BE USEFUL!
HMMM. SO FAR ALL I'VE SEEN FROM YOU IS PLENTY OF TALK BUT VERY LITTLE ACTION SANDRA ...OR DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR OWN ADVICE?
KEEP LAUGHING, WISEGUY I HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN SITTING AROUND WAITING FOR THE MAILMAN TO BRING ME THE NEW COLLIER'S
WHERE ARE WE GOING? I DON'T REMEMBER EVER BEING IN THIS PART OF THE HOUSE !?
I, HUMPH GOOD HEAVENS GIRL, THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A FRANKENSTEIN MOVIE WHAT IS ALL THIS ?!
WE NEVER USED THIS WING UNTIL I DECIDED TO OPEN MY LITTLE WORKSHOP
SURPRISED, HUH? I'LL BET YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOUR FAVORITE GIRL COUSIN HAD ANY SMARTS
SMART'S ONE THING SANDRA IT LOOKS LIKE IT WOULD REQUIRE AN EINSTEIN TO WORK THIS MESS! WHERE DID IT ALL COME FROM?
FROM A PROFESSOR DAVIS, A SCIENTIST DADDY'S KNOWN FOR YEARS. HE SENT THEM TO US TO LOOK OVER BEFORE HIS DISAPPEARANCE
AND WHAT WITH DADDY BEING SO OCCUPIED WITH HIS CAMPAIGN, I DECIDED TO FIDDLE WITH THEM ON MY OWN AND SEE WHAT I COULD DO
TAKE THIS INVENTION, FOR INSTANCE - PROF DAVIS CLAIMS IT WILL CAST BLACK LIGHT WHEN IT'S FINISHED -
AND AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL, HE'S RIGHT!
IMPRESSIVE-- IF IT WORKS!
THE ONLY TROUBLE IS, SMART AS I MAY BE, I'M NO MATCH FOR THE PROFESSOR IN BRAINS. HE COULD HAVE COMPLETED IT IN DAYS--
- BUT HE HAD ABANDONED WORK ON ALL HIS OTHER PROJECTS TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS MAIN INVENTION THE ULTRA - DYNAMO!

LISTEN, TED, IF YOU'RE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT WANTING TO DO SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE, WHY NOT JOIN ME IN FINISHING THIS THING?
IMAGINE ITS ADVANTAGES AS A DEFENSIVE WEAPON! IF THIS "X-RAY" EVER DOES GET INTO THE WAR IN EUROPE--
ZAP! INSTANT BLACKOUT!
I KNOW HOW GOOD YOU ARE WITH YOUR HANDS, COUSIN. REMEMBER HOW YOU DISMANTLED AND THEN REASSEMBLED YOUR FATHER'S ROLLS WHEN YOU WERE A KID?
BUT THAT WAS JUST A CHILDHOOD PRANK, SANDRA.
HMMM. WHAT'S THIS CONTRAPTION?
STOP TRYING TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT! BUT SINCE YOU ASK, THE PROFESSOR CALLED IT A GRAVITY ROD. HE SAID IT WOULD WIELD GREAT POWER--
--ENABLING ITS USER TO LITERALLY OVERCOME THE FORCE OF GRAVITY! HE NEVER WAS ABLE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO POWER IT, THOUGH
"GRAVITY ROD"?
I COULD BE A MYSTERY-MAN LIKE BATMAN--ONLY FLYING AROUND, RIGHT UP THERE WITH GREEN LANTERN!
WHAT SANDRA SAYS IS EVEN HALF TRUE MY LORD! CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITIES!
I'D LOVE TO HELP YOU, BUT FRANKLY I DON'T THINK THIS BLACK-LIGHT STUFF IS RIGHT FOR ME.
OH, COME ON! IF YOU JUST PUT YOUR MIND TO IT, YOU COULD
NO, I MEAN, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I THINK I'D RATHER TAKE A SHOT AT THIS ROD
TED, IF DAVIS COULDN'T MAKE IT WORK, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN?
BECAUSE DEAR COUSIN I WAS BORN UNDER A LUCKY STAR!
SIGH! YOU'RE INCORRIGIBLE, TED. OKAY, TAKE THE THING, BUT I STILL SAY YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!
WHAT ELSE HAS A BORN PLAYBOY GOT TO DO, SANDRA?

BONKERS
LOOK OUT WHEN
NEW BONKERS® FRUIT CANDY
HITS TOWN!
THIS TOWN'S GOING BONKERS!
SOMETHING FRUITY IS GOING ON AROUND HERE!
BONK!
FRUITY, CHEWY OUTSIDE, SUPER FRUITY INSIDE!
BONK!
I'VE HEARD OF BIG FRUIT TASTE, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
WATCH FOR FALLING BONKERS
BONK
Bonkers!
BONKERVILLE
POP: BONKED OUT!
Bonkers!
BONKS YOU OUT!
ALL 3 FLAVORS BONK ME OUT!
Bonkers!
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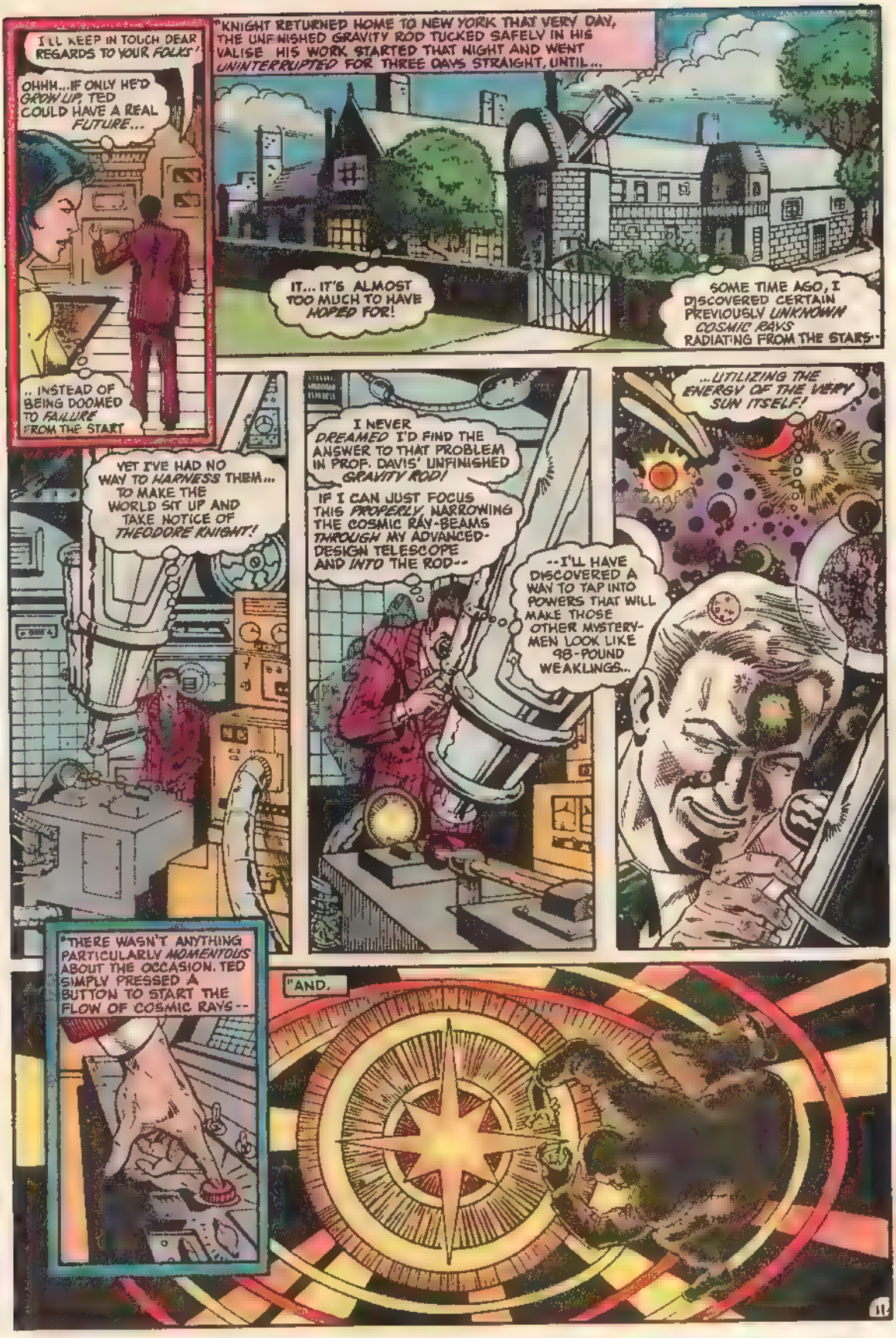
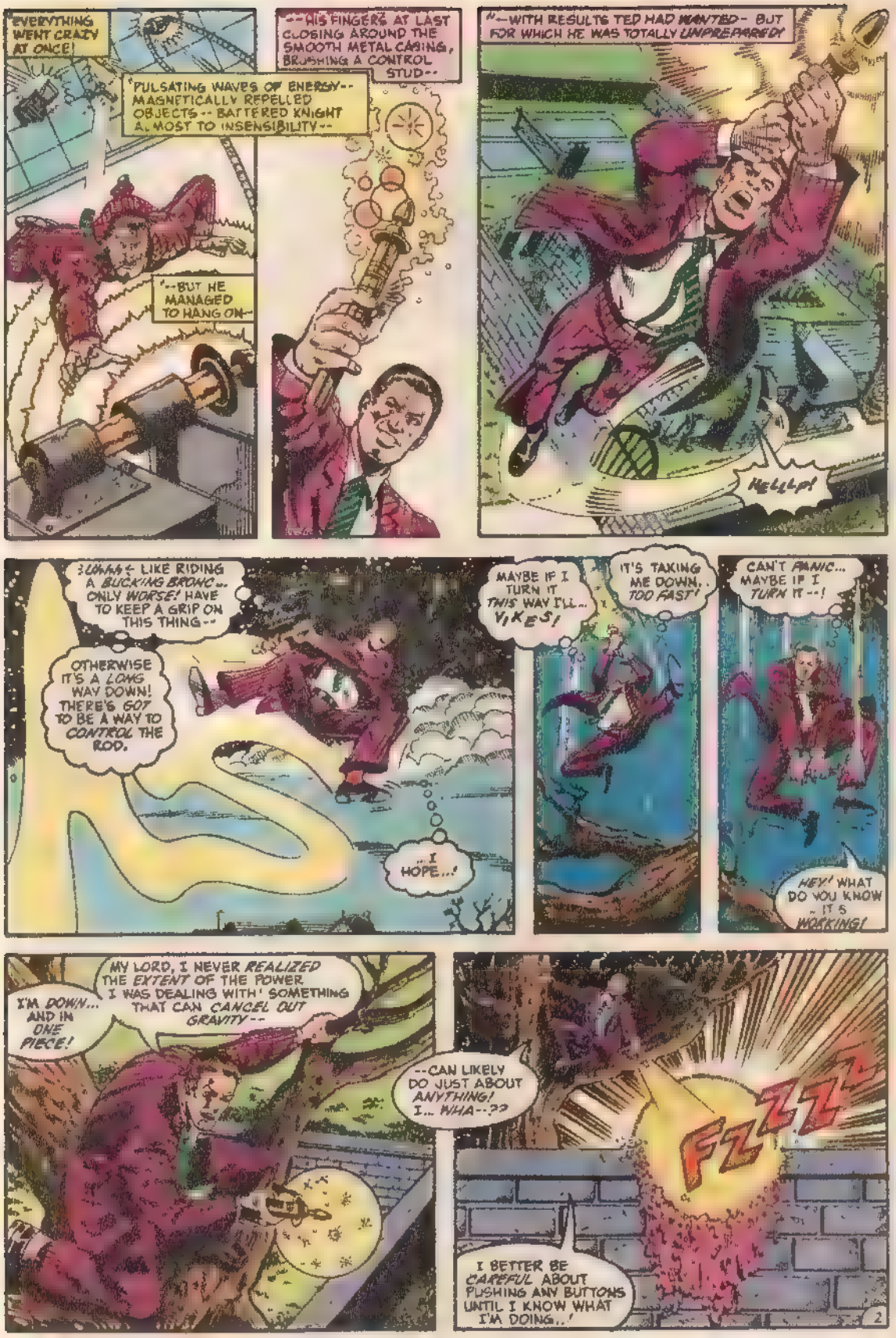
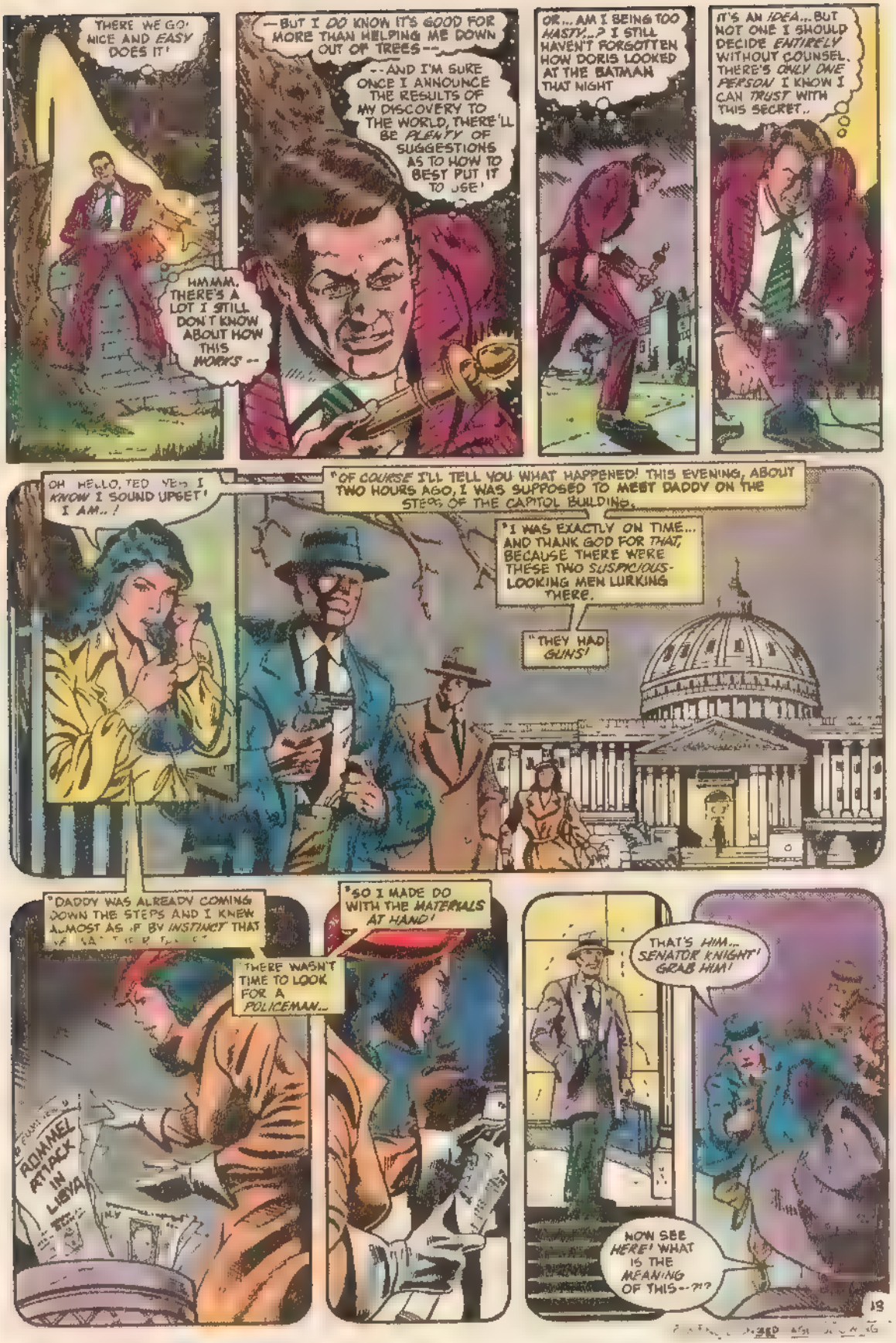

I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH DEAR REGARDS TO YOUR FOLKS"
OHHH...IF ONLY HE'D GROW UP, TED COULD HAVE A REAL FUTURE...
.. INSTEAD OF BEING DOOMED TO FAILURE FROM THE START
"KNIGHT RETURNED HOME TO NEW YORK THAT VERY DAY, THE UNFINISHED GRAVITY ROD TUCKED SAFELY IN HIS VALISE. HIS WORK STARTED THAT NIGHT AND WENT UNINTERRUPTED FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT, UNTIL...
IT... IT'S ALMOST TOO MUCH TO HAVE HOPED FOR!
SOME TIME AGO, I DISCOVERED CERTAIN PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN COSMIC RAYS RADIATING FROM THE STARS..
YET I'VE HAD NO WAY TO HARNESS THEM... TO MAKE THE WORLD SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE OF THEODORE KNIGHT!
I NEVER DREAMED I'D FIND THE ANSWER TO THAT PROBLEM IN PROF. DAVIS' UNFINISHED GRAVITY ROD!
IF I CAN JUST FOCUS THIS PROPERLY, NARROWING THE COSMIC RAY-BEAMS THROUGH MY ADVANCED-DESIGN TELESCOPE AND INTO THE ROD--
--I'LL HAVE DISCOVERED A WAY TO TAP INTO POWERS THAT WILL MAKE THOSE OTHER MYSTERY-MEN LOOK LIKE 98-POUND WEAKLINGS..
...UTILIZING THE ENERGY OF THE VERY SUN ITSELF!
"THERE WASN'T ANYTHING PARTICULARLY MOMENTOUS ABOUT THE OCCASION. TED SIMPLY PRESSED A BUTTON TO START THE FLOW OF COSMIC RAYS--
"AND.


EVERYTHING WENT CRAZY AT ONCE!
"PULSATING WAVES OF ENERGY-- MAGNETICALLY REPELLED OBJECTS-- BATTERED KNIGHT ALMOST TO INSENSIBILITY--
"--BUT HE MANAGED TO HANG ON--
"--HIS FINGERS AT LAST CLOSING AROUND THE SMOOTH METAL CASING, BRUSHING A CONTROL STUD--
"--WITH RESULTS TED HAD WANTED-- BUT FOR WHICH HE WAS TOTALLY UNPREPARED!
HELLLP!
WHAAA-- LIKE RIDING A BUCKING BRONC... ONLY WORSE! HAVE TO KEEP A GRIP ON THIS THING--
OTHERWISE IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN! THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY TO CONTROL THE ROD.
...I HOPE...!
MAYBE IF I TURN IT THIS WAY I'LL... YIKES!
IT'S TAKING ME DOWN... TOO FAST!
CAN'T PANIC... MAYBE IF I TURN IT --!
HEY! WHAT DO YOU KNOW... IT'S WORKING!
I'M DOWN... AND IN ONE PIECE!
MY LORD, I NEVER REALIZED THE EXTENT OF THE POWER I WAS DEALING WITH! SOMETHING THAT CAN CANCEL OUT GRAVITY--
--CAN LIKELY DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING! I... WHA--??
FZZZZ
I BETTER BE CAREFUL ABOUT PUSHING ANY BUTTONS UNTIL I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING..!
2


THERE WE GO! NICE AND EASY DOES IT!
HMMM. THERE'S A LOT I STILL DON'T KNOW ABOUT HOW THIS WORKS --
—BUT I DO KNOW IT'S GOOD FOR MORE THAN HELPING ME DOWN OUT OF TREES--
--AND I'M SURE ONCE I ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF MY DISCOVERY TO THE WORLD, THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW TO BEST PUT IT TO USE!
OR... AM I BEING TOO HASTY...? I STILL HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN HOW DORIS LOOKED AT THE BATMAN THAT NIGHT
IT'S AN IDEA... BUT NOT ONE I SHOULD DECIDE ENTIRELY WITHOUT COUNSEL. THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON I KNOW I CAN TRUST WITH THIS SECRET..
OH HELLO, TED YES I KNOW I SOUND UPSET! I AM..!
"OF COURSE I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED! THIS EVENING, ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO, I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET DADDY ON THE STEPS OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING.
"I WAS EXACTLY ON TIME... AND THANK GOD FOR THAT, BECAUSE THERE WERE THESE TWO SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING MEN LURKING THERE.
"THEY HAD GUNS!
"DADDY WAS ALREADY COMING DOWN THE STEPS AND I KNEW ALMOST AS IF BY INSTINCT THAT
"SO I MADE DO WITH THE MATERIALS AT HAND!
"THERE WASN'T TIME TO LOOK FOR A POLICEMAN..
ROMMEL ATTACK IN LIBYA
THAT'S HIM... SENATOR KNIGHT! GRAB HIM!
NOW SEE HERE! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS--?!?
18

SATURDAY MORNING
HEY, WAKE UP! WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT'S COMING ON NBC.
IT'S A WHOLE NEW SEASON!
CONSIDER, FOR A MOMENT, THE SURPRISE IN STORE FOR YOU ON SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 15TH AS YOU LAY SLEEPING YOUR TELEVISION SUDDENLY COMES ALIVE!
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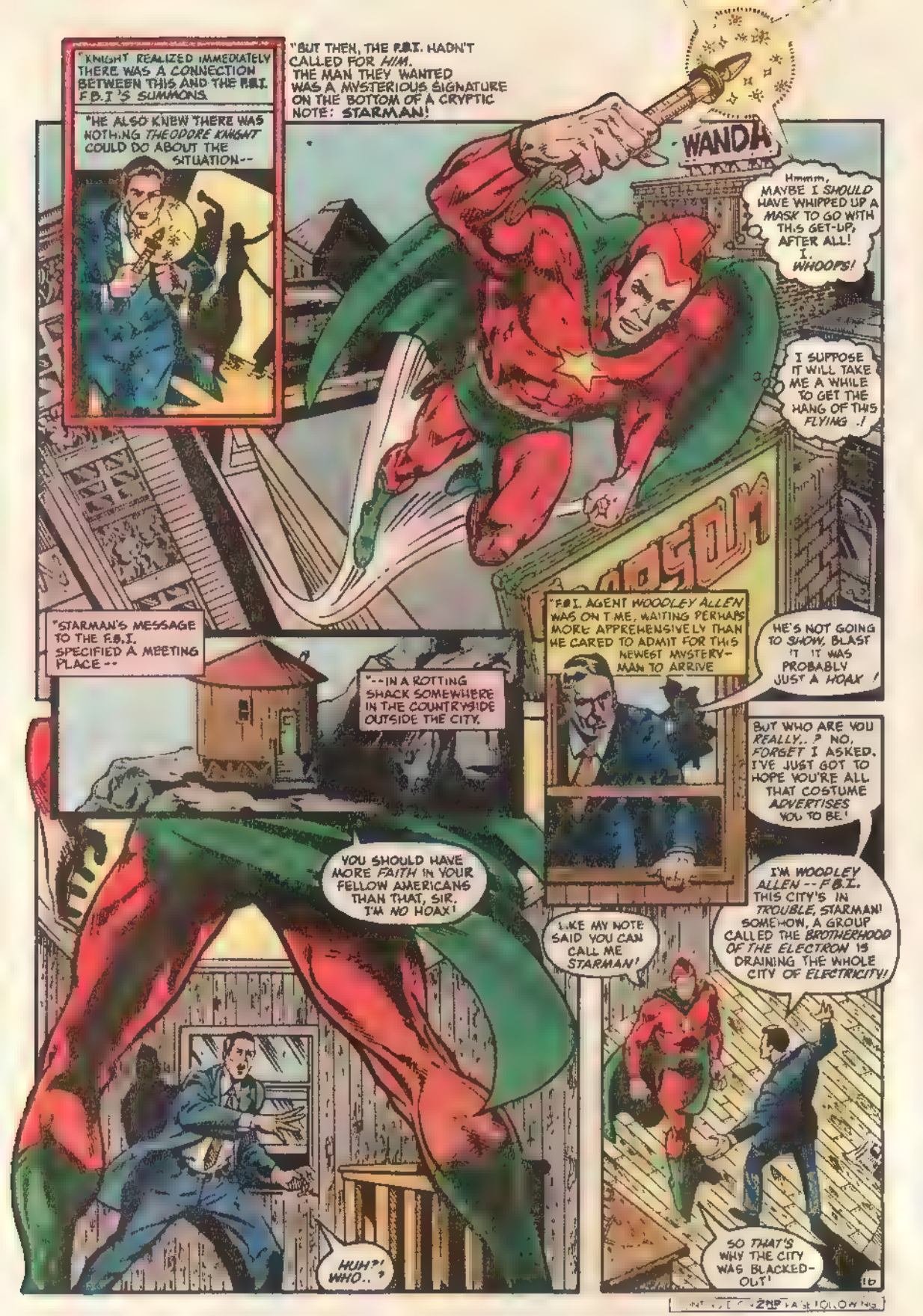
YOU'D BE AMAZED AT HOW MUCH DAMAGE A TIGHTLY ROLLED-UP NEWSPAPER CAN DO TO THE TOP OF GROWN MEN'S SKULLS!
"I LASHED INTO THOSE GUNMEN LIKE A HELLCAT, AND THEY NEVER EVEN SAW ME COME OUT OF THE DEEP SHADOWS! BEFORE THEY WENT OUT, I MUTTERED TO THEM THAT I WAS A "PHANTOM LADY"...
"...THE SAME NAME I WHISPERED TO MY FATHER BEFORE MELTING INTO THE SHADOWS AND THEN REAPPEARING AS MYSELF"
"SEE FREEDOM FIGHTERS #5. --Roy
I RESOLVED THEN AND THERE THAT THERE WOULD BE A "PHANTOM LADY" NOW... AND I'D HAVE HAD THAT ALREADY IF YOU HAD HELPED ME WITH THE BLACK-LIGHT RAY!
--AND DON'T BOTHER CALLING TO FIND OUT HOW I'M GETTING ALONG!
"IN A WAY, HIS COUSIN'S RESOLVE SERVED TO STRENGTHEN TED'S OWN. HIS DECISION WAS MADE, AND A PLAN WAS PUT INTO MOTION...
WELL, I GUESS I'M ON MY OWN! I SUPPOSE IF I WANT TO BE A MYSTERY-MAN, I'LL NEED AN OUTFIT OF SOME KIND...
...AND A NEW NAME...
...NOT TO MENTION A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, AS IT WERE. AFTER ALL, WHAT GOOD IS IT BEING A HERO IF NO ONE KNOWS IT?
THIS CAPSULE CONTAINING A NOTE SENT TO THE FBI OUGHT TO GET ME NOTICED!
SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
GOOD EVENING, DORIS. MY, BUT DON'T YOU LOOK LOVELY TONIGHT!
THANK YOU, TED. OH.. YOU'RE ALL FLUSHED. ARE YOU ILL?
WHEW! IT SURE IS WARM WEARING MY NEW OUTFIT UNDER MY STREET CLOTHES! I WONDER IF THE OTHERS DO IT THIS WAY...?
ANOTHER NEWSPAPER, TED? YOU'RE BECOMING AN ABSOLUTE MAVEN FOR CURRENT EVENTS LATELY!
OH, BUT HAVEN'T YOU HEARD ABOUT THIS JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA WHO JUST BROKE UP AN AXIS SPY RING HERE IN THE STATES? THEY'RE ALL OVER THE NEWS THESE DAYS.
ONE DAY I'M GOING TO BE A MEMBER OF THAT SOCIETY!
OH, TED! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN! YOU DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO HEAR YOU TALKING THIS WAY!
M'SIEU KNIGHT, MLLE LEE. THIS WAY, PLEASE...

EVEN AS TED KNIGHT AND DORIS LEE WERE SEATED FOR DINNER, STRANGE EVENTS ELSEWHERE BEGAN BREAKING.
"AT THE POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY, DYNAMOS BEGAN WHIRLING OUT OF CONTROL, SPARKING WITH DEADLY FLAMES.
"OVER MIDTOWN, A PASSENGER PLANE FROM CHICAGO SUDDENLY LOST POWER TO ITS ENGINES, CRASHING TO THE GROUND...
"AND IN THE NEW YORK OFFICES OF THE F.B.I.
YES, YES I AGREE! ALL THESE DISASTERS ARE COMING TOO FAST TO BE ACCIDENTAL ...NO, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT THE JSA...
BUT, WELL, LET'S JUST SAY I WANT TO TRY A LONG SHOT FIRST!
"IF THE F.B.I. 'S EVER IN NEED OF HELP, CONTACT ME WITH THIS CAPSULE! SIGNED, STARMAN"
WELL, WHY NOT? MAYBE THIS GUY'S FOR REAL. FOR NEW YORK'S SAKE, I PRAY HE IS!
"MEANWHILE...
I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S ANY USE PUTTING IT OFF ANY LONGER
DORIS, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!
OH, I DO SO LOVE SURPRISES, TED. WHAT?"
I...
--WHICH MEANS THE F.B.I. MUST BE TRYING TO CONTACT STARMAN!
ER. YES. I, I WANT TO LEAVE, MISS LEE. I FEEL A FRIGHTFUL HEADACHE COMING ON!
OH NO! WHY NOW OF ALL TIMES! THE GRAVITY ROD IS VIBRATING IN MY POCKET--
WHAT..?!?
IF THAT'S ALL YOU WANTED TO SAY TO ME, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED!
FRANKLY, MISTER KNIGHT, FROM NOW ON, I COULDN'T CARE IF YOUR HEAD FELL OFF, MUCH LESS ACHED! GOOD-BYE!
NOW, DORIS --!
"ANY THOUGHTS TED MIGHT HAVE HAD OF APOLOGIZING FLEW FROM HIS MIND IN THE NEXT MOMENT
"THAT'S WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT
NOW WHAT?! IT.. IT COULDN'T BE AN AIR RAID -- WE'RE NOT AT WAR!
15



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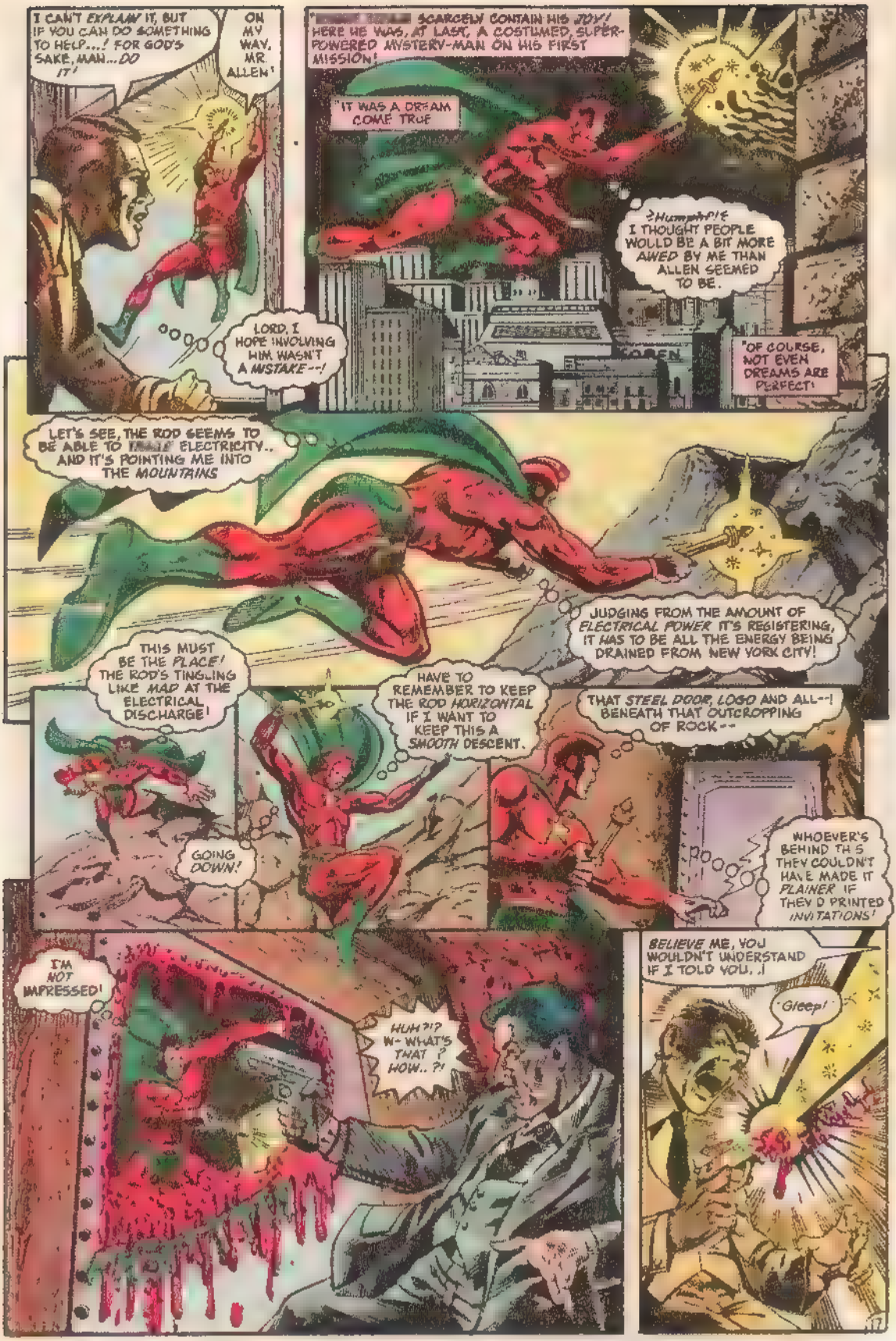
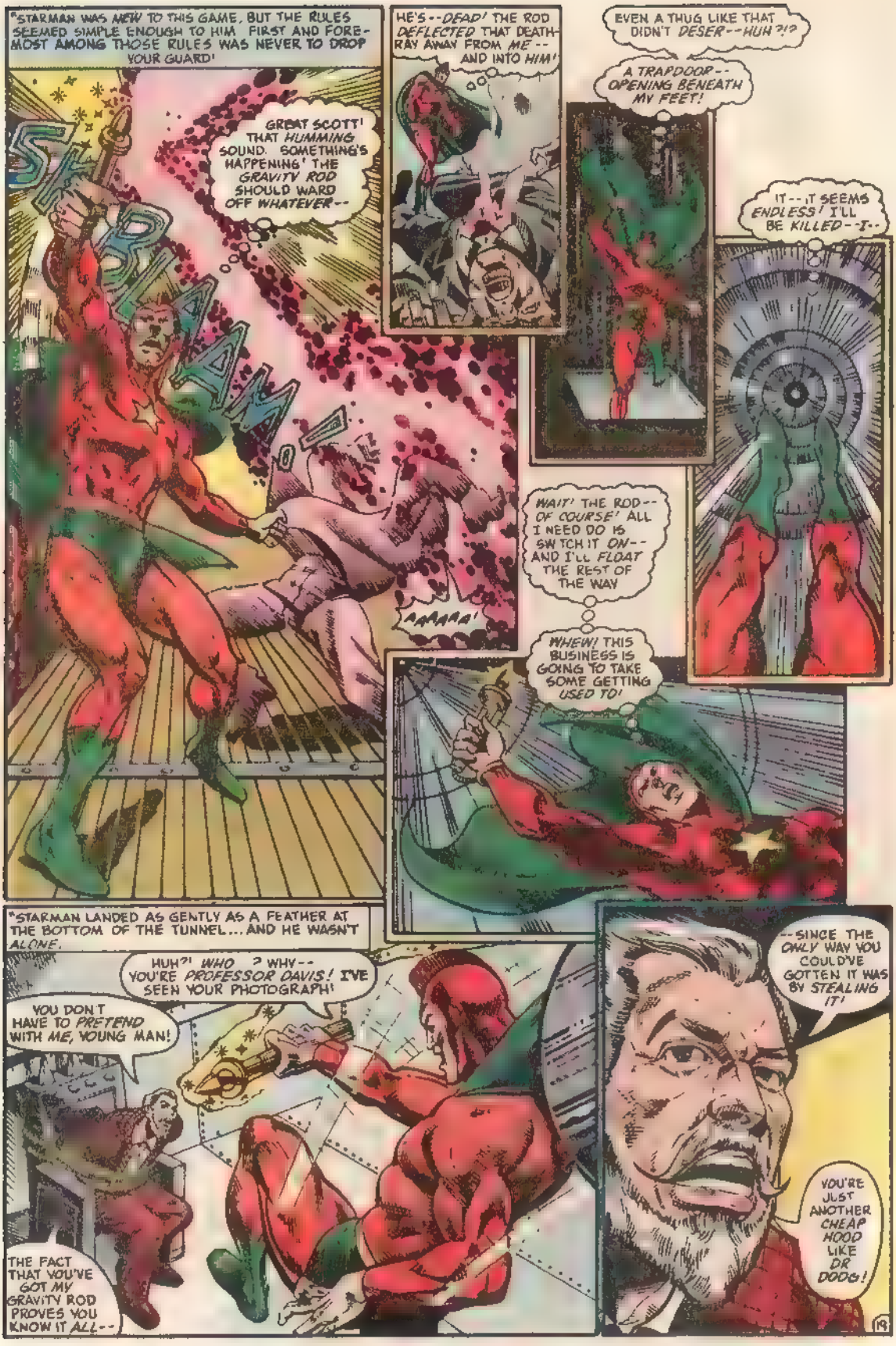
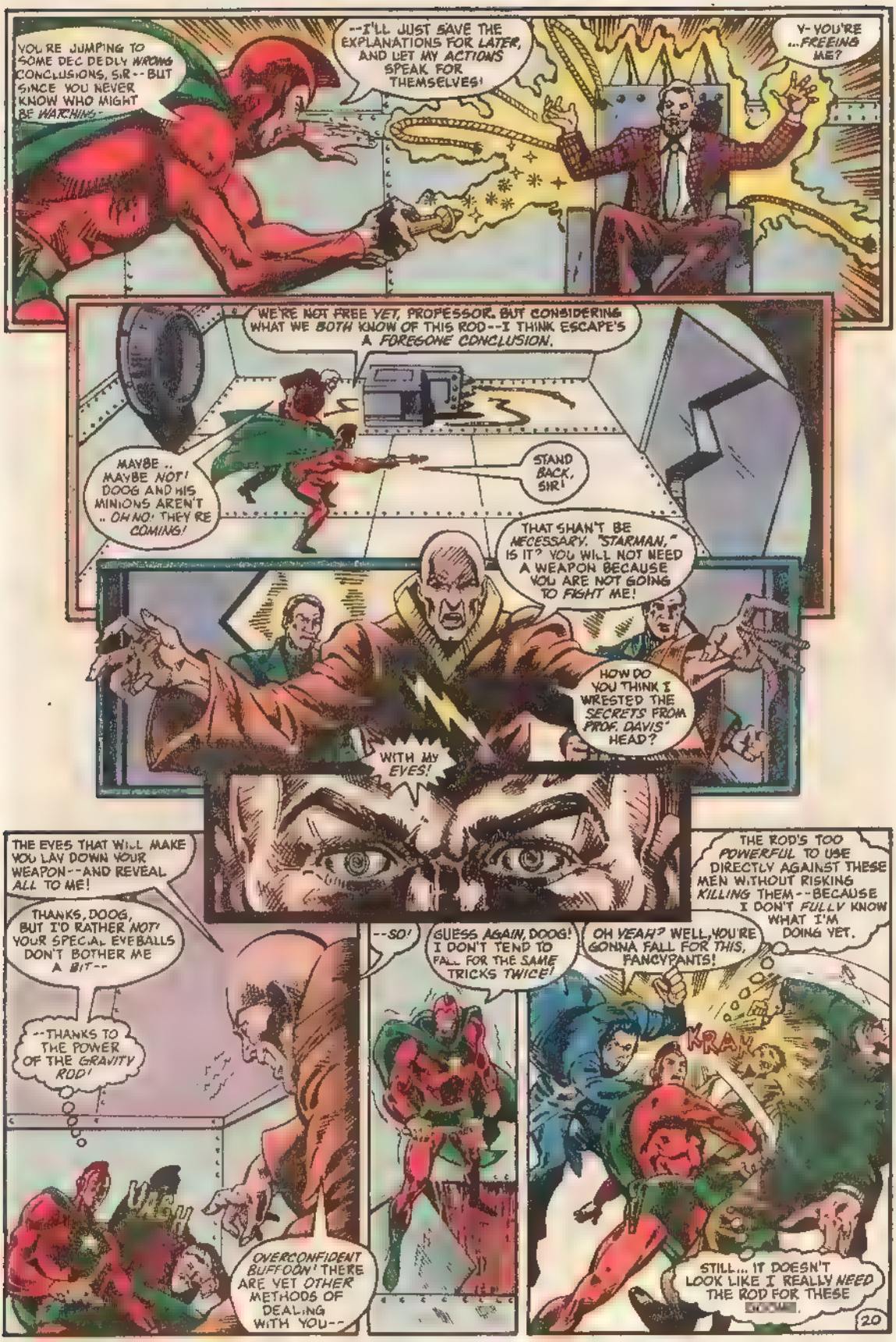
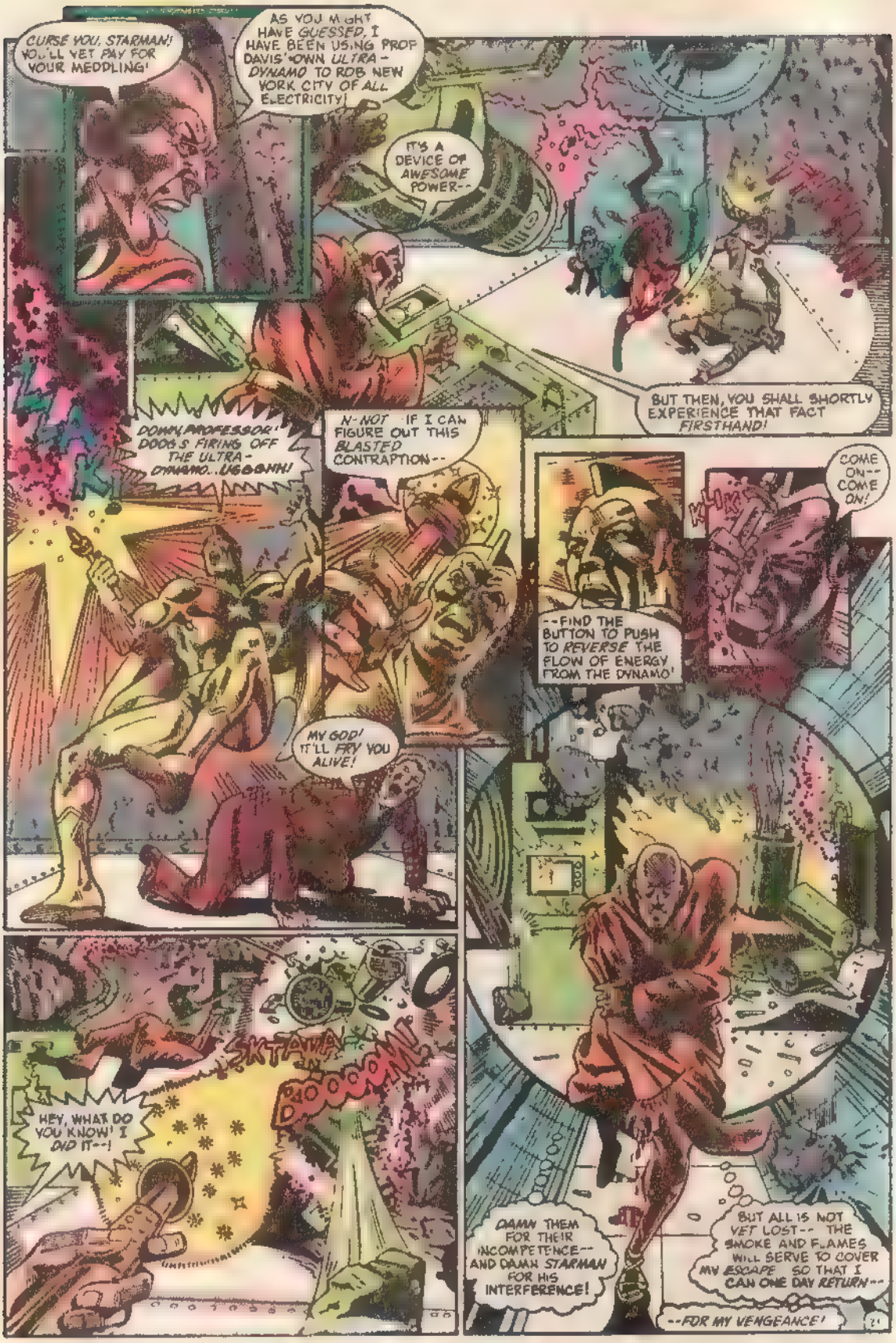
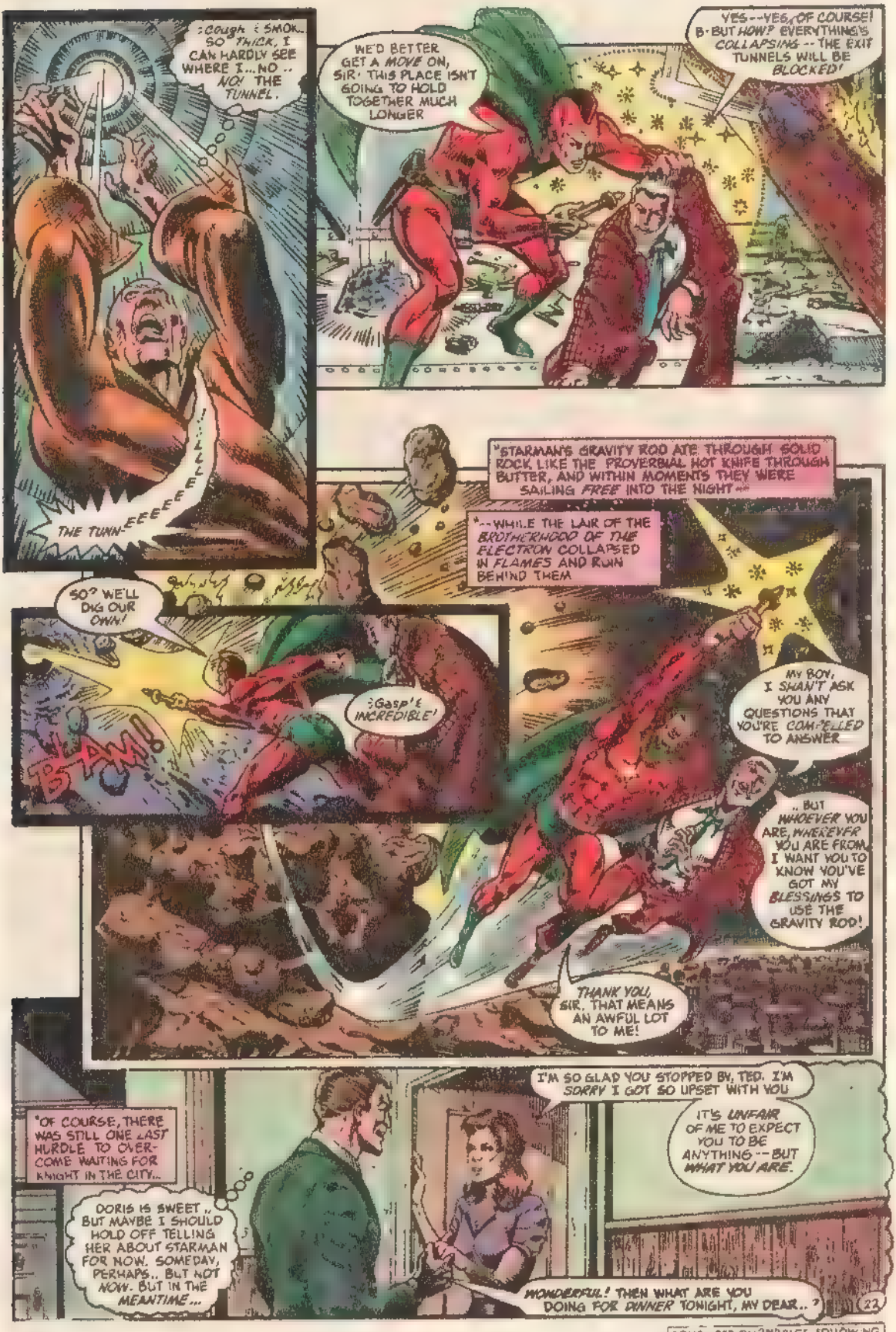

I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, BUT IF YOU CAN DO SOMETHING TO HELP...! FOR GOD'S SAKE, MAN... DO IT!
ON MY WAY, MR. ALLEN!
LORD, I HOPE INVOLVING HIM WASN'T A MISTAKE--!
SCARCELY CONTAIN HIS JOY! HERE HE WAS, AT LAST, A COSTUMED, SUPER-POWERED MYSTERY-MAN ON HIS FIRST MISSION!
"IT WAS A DREAM COME TRUE
?Humph?! I THOUGHT PEOPLE WOULD BE A BIT MORE AWED BY ME THAN ALLEN SEEMED TO BE.
"OF COURSE, NOT EVEN DREAMS ARE PERFECT!
LET'S SEE, THE ROD SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO [illegible] ELECTRICITY.. AND IT'S POINTING ME INTO THE MOUNTAINS
JUDGING FROM THE AMOUNT OF ELECTRICAL POWER IT'S REGISTERING, IT HAS TO BE ALL THE ENERGY BEING DRAINED FROM NEW YORK CITY!
THIS MUST BE THE PLACE! THE ROD'S TINGLING LIKE MAD AT THE ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE!
GOING DOWN!
HAVE TO REMEMBER TO KEEP THE ROD HORIZONTAL IF I WANT TO KEEP THIS A SMOOTH DESCENT.
THAT STEEL DOOR, LOGO AND ALL--! BENEATH THAT OUTCROPPING OF ROCK--
WHOEVER'S BEHIND TH S THEY COULDN'T HAVE MADE IT PLAINER IF THEY D PRINTED INVITATIONS!
I'M NOT IMPRESSED!
HUH?!? W- WHAT'S THAT ? HOW.. ?!
BELIEVE ME, YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND IF I TOLD YOU. .!
Gleep!

Y- YOU'RE NUTS! GOTTA WARN THE OTHERS--!
WAIT! WE WERE JUST GETTING ACQUAINTED--
--AND I INSIST YOU STAY!
ACTUALLY, YOU'RE BEING SUSPENDED IN A FIELD OF NEGATED GRAVITY, BUT THAT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE.
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL ME WHERE YOUR BOSS IS.. OR WOULD YOU RATHER I USE YOU FOR A POGO-STICK?
Wh--? I.. I'M... FLYING...?!?
NO!
TH- THERE! H- HE'S IN THERE!
THANKS, I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOUR GOOD SENSE!
FOOLS! MY HENCHMEN BETRAY ME AT THE SLIGHTEST HINT OF MENACE ...AND COSTUMED MEDDLERS DARE TO INVADE THE SANCTUM OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE ELECTRON!?
LET THEM BETRAY.. LET THEM COME--
LET THEM FEEL THE WRATH OF DR DOOG!
SURE, SURE! J- JUST DON'T TURN THAT THING'A YOURS ON ME AGAIN, OKAY?!
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T TRUST YOU, FRIEND, BUT WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THE LEAD? I'M IN NO MOOD FOR ANY OF YOUR BOSS' SURPRISES!
TREACHEROUS FOOL! HE TAKES NEITHER ANYWHERE--
--EXCEPT THEIR DOOMS!
I'M TAKIN' YOU RIGHT TO THE TOP MAN, LIKE YOU WANT!


"STARMAN WAS NEW TO THIS GAME, BUT THE RULES SEEMED SIMPLE ENOUGH TO HIM. FIRST AND FOREMOST AMONG THOSE RULES WAS NEVER TO DROP YOUR GUARD!
GREAT SCOTT! THAT HUMMING SOUND. SOMETHING'S HAPPENING! THE GRAVITY ROD SHOULD WARD OFF WHATEVER--
SKRAAM
HE'S--DEAD! THE ROD DEFLECTED THAT DEATH-RAY AWAY FROM ME--AND INTO HIM!
EVEN A THUG LIKE THAT DIDN'T DESER--HUH?!?
A TRAPDOOR--OPENING BENEATH MY FEET!
IT--IT SEEMS ENDLESS! I'LL BE KILLED--I--
AAAAA!
WAIT! THE ROD--OF COURSE! ALL I NEED DO IS SWITCH IT ON--AND I'LL FLOAT THE REST OF THE WAY
WHEW! THIS BUSINESS IS GOING TO TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO!
"STARMAN LANDED AS GENTLY AS A FEATHER AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TUNNEL... AND HE WASN'T ALONE.
HUH?! WHO ? WHY--YOU'RE PROFESSOR DAVIS! I'VE SEEN YOUR PHOTOGRAPH!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND WITH ME, YOUNG MAN!
THE FACT THAT YOU'VE GOT MY GRAVITY ROD PROVES YOU KNOW IT ALL--
--SINCE THE ONLY WAY YOU COULD'VE GOTTEN IT WAS BY STEALING IT!
YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER CHEAP HOOD LIKE DR DOOG!
13


YOU'RE JUMPING TO SOME DEC DEDLY WRONG CONCLUSIONS, SIR--BUT SINCE YOU NEVER KNOW WHO MIGHT BE WATCHING--
--I'LL JUST SAVE THE EXPLANATIONS FOR LATER, AND LET MY ACTIONS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES!
Y- YOU'RE ...FREEING ME?
WE'RE NOT FREE YET, PROFESSOR. BUT CONSIDERING WHAT WE BOTH KNOW OF THIS ROD--I THINK ESCAPE'S A FORESONE CONCLUSION.
MAYBE .. MAYBE NOT! DOOG AND HIS MINIONS AREN'T .. OH NO! THEY'RE COMING!
STAND BACK, SIR!
THAT SHAN'T BE NECESSARY, "STARMAN," IS IT? YOU WILL NOT NEED A WEAPON BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT GOING TO FIGHT ME!
HOW DO YOU THINK I WRESTED THE SECRETS FROM PROF. DAVIS' HEAD?
WITH MY EYES!
THE EYES THAT WILL MAKE YOU LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPON--AND REVEAL ALL TO ME!
THANKS, DOOG, BUT I'D RATHER NOT! YOUR SPECIAL EYEBALLS DON'T BOTHER ME A BIT--
--THANKS TO THE POWER OF THE GRAVITY ROD!
OVERCONFIDENT BUFFOON! THERE ARE YET OTHER METHODS OF DEALING WITH YOU--
--SO!
GUESS AGAIN, DOOG! I DON'T TEND TO FALL FOR THE SAME TRICKS TWICE!
OH YEAH? WELL, YOU'RE GONNA FALL FOR THIS, FANCYPANTS!
KRAK!
THE ROD'S TOO POWERFUL TO USE DIRECTLY AGAINST THESE MEN WITHOUT RISKING KILLING THEM--BECAUSE I DON'T FULLY KNOW WHAT I'M DOING YET.
STILL... IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I REALLY NEED THE ROD FOR THESE
20


CURSE YOU, STARMAN! YOU'LL YET PAY FOR YOUR MEDDLING!
AS YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED, I HAVE BEEN USING PROF DAVIS' OWN ULTRA-DYNAMO TO ROB NEW YORK CITY OF ALL ELECTRICITY!
IT'S A DEVICE OF AWESOME POWER--
BUT THEN, YOU SHALL SHORTLY EXPERIENCE THAT FACT FIRSTHAND!
DOWN, PROFESSOR! DOOG'S FIRING OFF THE ULTRA-DYNAMO..UGGGHH!
N-NOT IF I CAN FIGURE OUT THIS BLASTED CONTRAPTION--
COME ON-- COME ON!
--FIND THE BUTTON TO PUSH TO REVERSE THE FLOW OF ENERGY FROM THE DYNAMO!
MY GOD! IT'LL FRY YOU ALIVE!
SKTAWK
BOOOOOM!
HEY, WHAT DO YOU KNOW! I DID IT--!
DAMN THEM FOR THEIR INCOMPETENCE-- AND DAMN STARMAN FOR HIS INTERFERENCE!
BUT ALL IS NOT YET LOST-- THE SMOKE AND FLAMES WILL SERVE TO COVER MY ESCAPE SO THAT I CAN ONE DAY RETURN--
--FOR MY VENGEANCE!
21


:Cough: SMOK.. SO THICK, I CAN HARDLY SEE WHERE I...NO.. NOW THE TUNNEL.
THE TUNN-EEEEEEE
!!LLL
WE'D BETTER GET A MOVE ON, SIR. THIS PLACE ISN'T GOING TO HOLD TOGETHER MUCH LONGER
YES--YES, OF COURSE! B-BUT HOW? EVERYTHING'S COLLAPSING -- THE EXIT TUNNELS WILL BE BLOCKED!
"STARMAN'S GRAVITY ROD ATE THROUGH SOLID ROCK LIKE THE PROVERBIAL HOT KNIFE THROUGH BUTTER, AND WITHIN MOMENTS THEY WERE SAILING FREE INTO THE NIGHT--"
"--WHILE THE LAIR OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE ELECTRON COLLAPSED IN FLAMES AND RUIN BEHIND THEM
SO? WE'LL DIG OUR OWN!
:Gasp!: INCREDIBLE!
BLAM!
MY BOY, I SHAN'T ASK YOU ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU'RE COMPELLED TO ANSWER
.. BUT WHOEVER YOU ARE, WHEREVER YOU ARE FROM, I WANT YOU TO KNOW YOU'VE GOT MY BLESSINGS TO USE THE GRAVITY ROD!
THANK YOU, SIR. THAT MEANS AN AWFUL LOT TO ME!
I'M SO GLAD YOU STOPPED BY, TED. I'M SORRY I GOT SO UPSET WITH YOU
IT'S UNFAIR OF ME TO EXPECT YOU TO BE ANYTHING -- BUT WHAT YOU ARE.
"OF COURSE, THERE WAS STILL ONE LAST HURDLE TO OVERCOME WAITING FOR KNIGHT IN THE CITY...
DORIS IS SWEET .. BUT MAYBE I SHOULD HOLD OFF TELLING HER ABOUT STARMAN FOR NOW. SOMEDAY, PERHAPS.. BUT NOT NOW. BUT IN THE MEANTIME...
WONDERFUL! THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR DINNER TONIGHT, MY DEAR..?
22
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--RIGHT OUT OF THE SKY!
WHAT? Oh, SORRY, WILL. I WAS--THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE--JUST FOR A SECOND.
OBVIOUSLY
THAT'LL MAKE A GREAT ANECDOTE, IF I EVER GET AROUND TO WRITING THE BOOK I'M GATHERING ALL THIS INFO FOR.
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT?
HAWKMAN TOLD ME TED CAME ON A BIT STRONG WHEN HE FIRST TRIED TRIED TO JOIN THE JUSTICE SOCIETY, TOO.
BUT I GUESS HE TURNED OUT ALL RIGHT.
JUST WISH HE'D WAKE UP, SO HE COULD TELL US WHAT--
LOOK OUT! LOOK OUT!
ENEMY BOMBER COMING IN--AT TWELVE--
--O'CLOCK.
EASY, KNIGHT. YOU'RE IN ALL-STAR HQ--NOT THE MIDDLE OF A JAPANESE RAID!
YOU JUST HAD A NIGHTMARE, THAT'S ALL.
BUT IT ISN'T ALL! THAT NIGHTMARE WAS REAL, I TELL YOU--REAL--
--AND PRETTY SOON, IT'S JUST LIABLE TO ENGULF US ALL!
NEXT ISSUE
TSUNAMI! KUNG! THE SILVER SAMURAI!
AND, JUST FOR GOOD MEASURE--
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SPECIAL NOTE: *This is a month I've been waiting for, for a long time—and now, alas, I find I've only one page (rather than two) to tell you about it. So, if you'll bear with me, I'll go over all items as swiftly and succinctly as possible.*

(1) This month, a **third** *Earth-Two epic begins to unfold, to take its place alongside ALL-STAR SQUADRON and INFINITY, INC. Its name, of course, will already be well known to most of you—AMERICA VS. THE JUSTICE SOCIETY.*

A sort of informal prequel to the upcoming CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS maxi-series, AMERICA VS. THE JSA is a much-requested and long-awaited **history** *of the first and foremost super-hero team of all, with some visual reference to virtually every aspect and case of the JSA from 1940 to the present—even as, in 1984, the JSAers battle to clear their names of the charge of* **treason**, *raised by none other than the late, lamented Earth-Two* **Batman!** *(And wait'll you see who the prosecuting and defense attorneys are—or are you ahead of us on that one already?)*

Artists on issue #1 will be **Rafael Kayanan** *(of FIRESTORM fame) and* **Alfredo Alcala** *(of recent BATMAN issues), with an assist from regular ALL-STAR SQUADRON inker* **Bill Collins**. *Due to Rafael's heavy commitment to FIRESTORM, issues #2-4 will be penciled by* **Mike Hernandez**, *noted for his recent work with Doug Moench on AZTEC ACE for another company, and inked by Alfredo. What's more, all four issues will sport covers by* **Jerry Ordway**, *who (along with* **Rich Buckler**) *has contributed a penciled page or two of interior art, as well. Talk about a JSA jam session!*

Oh, and one more thing—AMERICA VS. THE JUSTICE SOCIETY #1 contains a full **48 pages of story**, *cover to cover—for $1.50—while #2-4 will feature 32-page stories for $1.00. A real "don't-miss" series, on sale even as we speak, that'll tell you everything you ever wanted to know about the JSA—plus a few things you never dared dream!*

(2) November is the month that JONNI THUNDER, A.K.A. THUNDERBOLT makes its dramatic DC debut—a new rendition of one of the longest-running "names" in comics history. What's her connection (if any) to **Johnny Thunder** *of Earth-Two? That'll have to wait for the future—but meanwhile, you'll be doing yourself a favor by picking up the first issue of this four-part mini-series about a young woman P.I. in Los Angeles who never wanted anything more out of life than to be Philip Marlowe, Raymond Chandler's famous fictional detective—but who wound up turning into a human Thunderbolt, as well! An off-beat series with repercussions on Earth-Two—and a heckuva lot of fun in its own right—with script by Dann Thomas and myself (co-created by Gerry Conway) and with art by Dick Giordano, committing himself as penciller and inker of a series for the first time since becoming DC's head editorial honcho. We think Dick's work will knock your socks off like a, er, bolt from the blue.*

(3) Just a few lines left to mention that, with this issue of ALL-STAR SQUADRON, **Arvell Jones** *becomes regular penciller. Arvell was one of my personal choices to succeed Rich Buckler as penciller of this mag a couple of years back, so I'm delighted that we're finally having a chance to work together on a full-time basis—and those who loved Arvell's slam-bang job on issue #37 ("Lightning in Berlin!"—the second Marvel Family episode) will rejoice to see we've corralled him and* **Bill Collins** *as our new art team. Let us know what you think, huh?*

(4) Oh, Yes—and our stripped-down "Golden Age Gallery" for this issue, which follows, features a beautiful drawing by the great **Joe Kubert** *of the Justice Society, circa 1941, reprinted by permission of Jim Steranko from his popular* **History of Comics** *a few years back. Interestingly, Joe chose to render Hawkman—the JSAer with whom he's most closely associated—in the style of the previous major Hawkman artist, Sheldon Moldoff, as per '41. We've always thought the pic deserved a larger audience, and you're it!*

—Roy Thomas

P.S.: Next month, letters on issues #36 37, honest!

GOLDEN AGE GALLERY

Due to this issue's special Starman origin—untold for more than four decades—we only had room for one page of Gallery material this month. But what a page! A drawing by **Joe Kubert**, *Hawkman illustrator par excellence, of the late-1941 lineup of the JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA, as done for* **The Steranko History of Comics**, *Volume Two, and never before printed in color or in a comic-book. Thanks, Joe and Jim, for permission to share your vision with an even wider audience.*

—Roy

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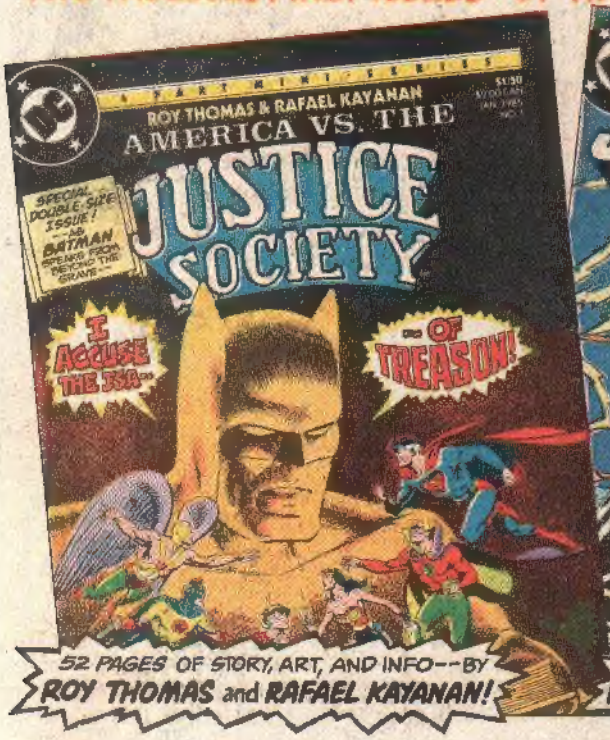

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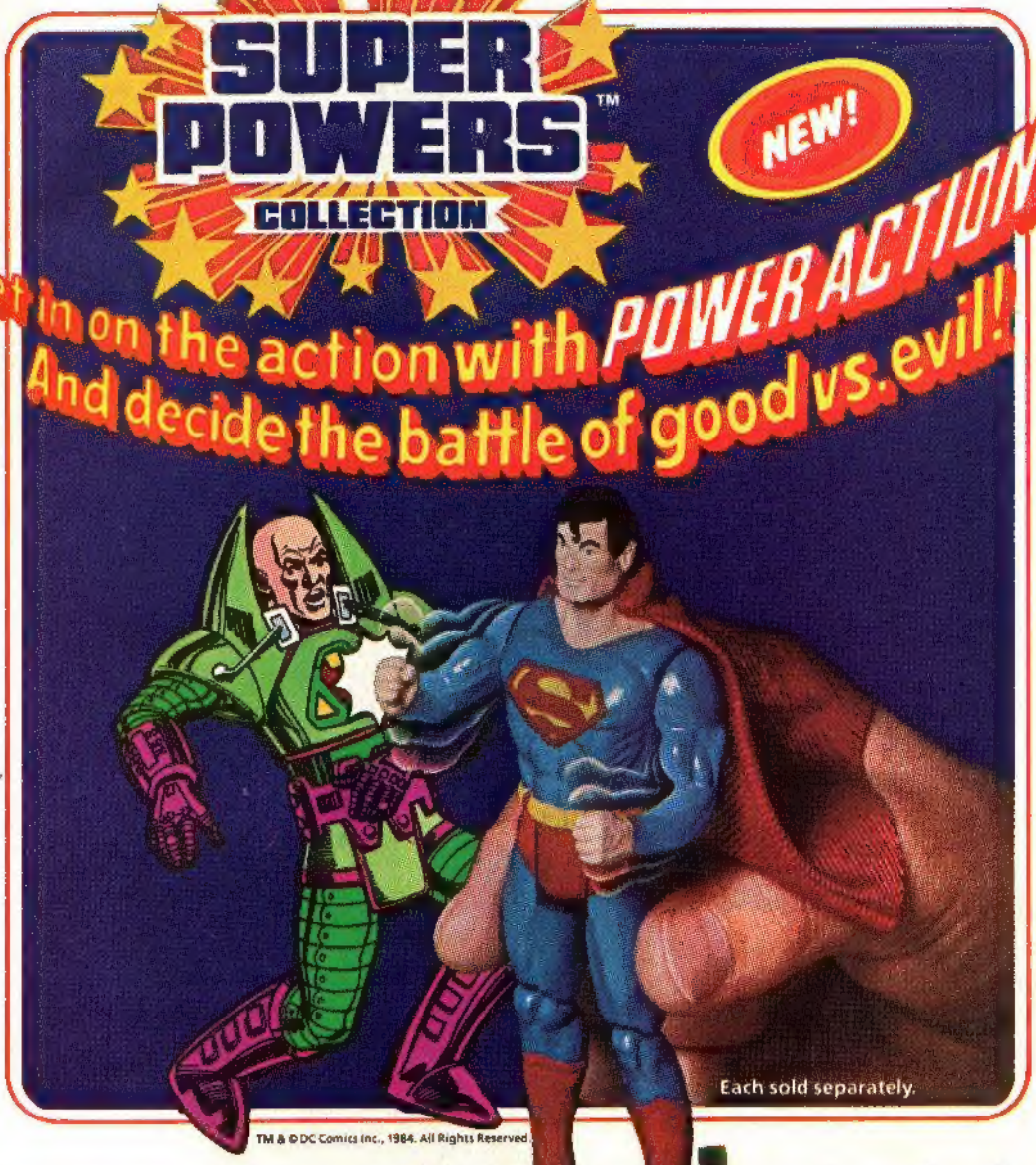

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